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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History, February 1.—The following papers were read: Mr. H. L. Harris, A new instance of the capture of streams; Professor W. T. Sedgwick, The natural history of disease.

February 15.—The following papers were read: Professor Henry W. Haynes, More evidence of cannibalism among the Indians of New England; Dr. R. T. Jackson, Notes on the development of palms; Dr. S. J. Mixter, A Massachusetts beaver dam.

March 1.—The following papers were read: Prof. E. S. Morse, A curious Aino toy; Dr. C. Willard Hayes and Mr. M. R. Campbell, The structural features (geomorphology) of the southern Appalachians. Maps and diagrams were shown and a discussion followed, Professor Davis, Mr. Upham and others participating.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary*.

New York Academy of Sciences, Meeting of Biological Section, Feb. 13, 1893. A paper on the Functions of the Internal Ear was presented by Dr. F. S. Lee, based upon a study of dog-fish. The results of experiments were given showing that the semicircular canals are sensory organs for dynamical (rotational) equilibrium, otolithic parts for statical (resting) equilibrium. Each canal appreciates movement in its own plane and by a definite functional combination of canals all possible rotational movements are radiated. This theory explains compensating movements of eyes, fins and trunk. The method of experiment was that of sectioning the branches of the acoustic nerve and stimulation (by rotational movements) of the living swimming fish.

In a paper by Bashford Dean on the Marine Laboratories of Europe a series of views was shown of the stations of Naples, Banyuls, Roscoff, Plymouth, Arcachon, the Helder, and St. Andrews.

H. F. Osborn described the foot of *Artionyx*, the new member of the order *Ancylopoda* Cope. It is distinguished from *Chalicotherium* by the artiodactyle character of ankle and pes.

BASHFORD DEAN, *Rec. Sec.*

The Biological Society of Washington.—The following communications were made: Mr. M. B. Waite, the Destruction of Lichens on Pear Trees; Mr. C. H. Townsend, The Propagation of the Atlantic Coast Oyster on the Pacific Coast; Mr. Charles Hallock, The Geographical Distribution of the Musk-Ox; Dr. C. Hart Merriam, The Four-toed Kangaroo Rats (with exhibition of specimens).

February 25.—Communications: Mr. Sheldon Jackson, The Introduction of Reindeer in Alaska; Mr. M. B. Waite, Variation in the Fruit of the Pear due to Difference of Pollen; Mr. E. M. Hasbrouck, On the Development of the Appendages of the Cedar Waxwing; Mr. F. A. Lucas, The Food of Humming-birds.

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary*.

Anthropological Society of Washington.—Special Meeting, February 14.—The program consisted of a lecture, A Primitive Priesthood, by an Initiate. Illustrated by lantern slides by Frank Hamilton Cushing.—WESTON FLINT, *Secretary*.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

Errata in Mrs. Bodington's article "Legends of the Sumiro-Accadians of Chaldea" in *THE AMERICAN NATURALIST* for February, 1893, p. 105.

Page 105, Line 2 from bottom, for Bohu read Bahu. (N. B. Bohu in the last line is correct.)

Page 106, Line 4; for Herodach read Merodach.

Page 107, Lines 13, 18, 21, 25, 30, and 36; for Tzdubar, read Izdubar.

Page 107, Line 14; for Tshtar read Ishtar.

Page 108, Line 1; for Tzdubar read Izdubar.

Page 108, Lines 12 and 31; for Tshtar read Ishtar.

Page 209, Lines 5, 8, 12, 18, 24, 31 and 37; for Tshtar read Ishtar.

Page 110, Lines 4, 7 and 15; for Tshar read Ishtar.

In the January Number, 1893.

Page 14, Note 1; for Story of the Natives read Story of the Nations.

Dr. Henry Wheatland, of Salem, Mass., died February 27, 1893 aged 81 years. Dr. Wheatland graduated at Harvard in 1834, and